

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

IGA-02 HEW-04 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 /057 W

-----049729 160956Z /10

P 160810Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2945

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP, NI

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR POPULATION INFORMATION

REF: (A) 75 STATE 297241, (B) STATE 167894, (C) STATE 128220,

(D) STATE A-2666

1. WITH LARGEST CONCENTRATION OF PEOPLE IN BLACK AFRICA, NIGERIA HAS ESTIMATED 75 - 80 MILLION POPULATION. POPULATION GROWTH RATE APPROXIMATELY 3 PERCENT PER YEAR. AS A RESULT OF IMPROVED HEALTH CONDITIONS, MORTALITY RATE IS MEASURABLY DECLINING. IF GROWTH PATTERNS CONTINUE, POPULATION IS PROJECTED AS 150 MILLION BY YEAR 2000.

2. THE 1975-80 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN STATES "THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT LEAVING THE PROBLEM OF REDUCING THE NORMAL FERTILITY RATE SOLELY TO THE PROCESS OF SOCIAL CHANGE." IN 1976, NIGERIA FOR FIRST TIME INDICATED CONCERN OVER EXCESSIVE POPULATION TO THE U.N. POPULATION INQUIRY. IN 1975 FMG ESTABLISHED A NATIONAL POPULATION COUNCIL (NPC) TO ADVISE ON FORMULATION OF A NATIONAL POPULATION POLICY AND COORDINATE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILY PLANNING ACTIVITIES. THE NPC, WHICH HAS A SMALL STAFF IN THE PLANNING OFFICE OF THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HAS DEVELOPED A PROPOSAL FOR SETTING UP A VITAL STATISTICS REGISTRATION SYSTEM, HAS PROPOSED LIBERALIZATION OF

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ABORTION LEGISLATION AND HAS MADE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR BIRTH SERVICE AND RESEARCH. FMG ALSO PROVIDES A SUBSIDY TO THE PRIVATE FAMILY PLANNING COUNCIL OF NIGERIA (FPCN) WHICH PRESENTLY OPERATES 61 CLINICS AND PROVIDES DIRECT FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES THE FMG HAS ALSO EXPANDED THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT-RUN BASIC HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM FROM SUCH ROUTINE TASKS AS INNOCULATION AND PHYSICAL CHECKUPS TO ACTIVE FAMILY PLANNING COUNSELING.

THERE IS INCREASING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT. DONOR ASSISTANCE APPEARS TO BE ADEQUATE AND EFFECTIVELY USED, ALTHOUGH IMPLEMENTATION ON NIGERIAN SIDE IS SOMEWHAT SLOW.

3. THREE UNIVERSITIES ARE INVOLVED IN POPULATION RESEARCH, TRAINING AND SERVICES (UNIVERSITIES OF LAGOS, IBADAN AND IFE). THE OB/GYN DEPARTMENT OF UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN OPERATES THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM IN PROMOTING A WIDE RANGE OF FERTILITY MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES. THE CHILD HEALTH INSTITUTE OF LAGOS UNIVERSITY PROVIDES EXTENSIVE CHILD SPACING GUIDANCE.

4. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES WHICH AFFECT POPULATION GROWTH. FMG OPERATES A NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS PROGRAM IN WHICH HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES ARE NORMALLY OBLIGED TO SERVE FOR ONE YEAR BEFORE ENTERING THE JOB MARKET. FEMALE MEMBERS RECEIVE FAMILY PLANNING TRAINING AND MANY CORPS MEMBERS WORK IN VILLAGE HEALTH CLINICS. A LARGE NUMBER ALSO WORK ON FARMS TO IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. THANKS TO GOVT SCHOLARSHIPS, MANY NIGERIAN STUDENTS STUDY AND LIVE ABROAD, BECOMING AWARE OF THE INCREASED DISPOSABLE INCOME POSSIBILITIES ENJOYED BY SMALL FAMILIES. ACCEPTANCE OF MORE WOMEN IN GOVT HIRING IS REINFORCING TREND IN WHICH WOMEN ARE BECOMING MUCH MORE ACTIVE IN PROFESSIONAL FIELDS AND CONCENTRATING ON CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT RATHER THAN HAVING MANY CHILDREN. MARRIAGE LAWS ARE BECOMING MORE STRICT AND FORMALIZED, E.G. PEOPLE INCREASINGLY PERFORM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MARRIAGE CEREMONY IN CIVIL REGISTRY. AS A RESULT, POLYGAMOUS MARRIAGES ARE BECOMING FEWER. UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION (UPE) PROGRAM IS BEING ACCENTED AT SUBSTANTIAL BUDGETARY COST THROUGHOUT COUNTRY, PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL INFLUENCES PREVIOUSLY DENIED TO LARGE PROPORTION OF CHILDREN WHO DID NOT ATTEND SCHOOL.

5. NIGERIA'S INFRASTRUCTURE BARELY ACCOMMODATES THE PRESENT POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT ADVANCES ARE HARD PRESSED TO KEEP UP WITH POPULATION GROWTH. EVEN WITH A VARIETY OF EXTENDED AGRICULTURAL SCHEMES, COUNTRY WILL CONTINUE TO BE NET IMPORTER OF FOODSTUFFS FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. ACCORDING TO FMG PROJECTIONS, THE OVERALL LEVEL OF FOODSTUFF IMPORTS WILL CONTINUE TO RISE THROUGH 1980, SPARKED BY WHEAT, CORN, SORGHUM, SUGAR AND DAIRY PRODUCTS. AFTER 1980, RATE OF IMPORT GROWTH SHOULD DECLINE. NOTEWORTHY IS FACT THAT IN LOCAL FOOD OUTPUT, OFFICIAL ESTIMATES SEE CASSAVA IN ABUNDANCE BY 1980 BUT YAMS, PEANUTS AND VEGETABLES INSUFFICIENT TO MEET DEMAND. HIGHLY LABOR INTENSIVE AGRICULTURE, ESTIMATED TO BE USING UP TO 65 PERCENT OF THE LABOR FORCE, IS NOT EFFICIENT BUT IT IS EVOLVING FROM A COMMUNAL TO A SINGLE FAMILY SYSTEM. WATER RESOURCES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT AND HOUSING CONSTRUCTION DO NOT ACCOMMODATE PRESENT POPULATION, A SITUATION AGGRAVATED BY THE

OIL-POWERED ECONOMIC BOOM WHICH MAKES MATERIAL RESOURCES VERY SCARCE. HOWEVER, CURRENT 5-YEAR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN CALLING FOR EXPENDITURES OF OVER DOLS 60 BILLION FOCUSES ON THESE NEEDS. PARTICULARLY STRONG EFFORTS ARE BEING CONCENTRATED ON WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT. INTERNAL TRANSPORT SYSTEM SHOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED WHEN NETWORK OF ROADS, UNDER CONSTRUCTION FOR SEVERAL YEARS, IS COMPLETED; RAILWAY NET REMAINS WEAK AND BADLY MANAGED. LACK OF STORAGE IS NAGGING PROBLEM WHICH MERITS MORE ATTENTION. PORT BOTTLENECKS, STILL EXTREMELY PAINFUL, WILL BE EASED AS EXTENSIVE NEW BERTHING FACILITIES COME INTO OPERATION IN NEXT 18 MONTHS. GOVT ABLE TO PAY FOR FOOD IMPORTS AT CURRENT PRICES. GROWING NUTRITIONAL AWARENESS, ESPECIALLY IN REGARD TO PROTEIN INTAKE, REFLECTED IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES AND EX-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PANDED ROLE OF SEAFOOD IN POPULAR DIET.  
WYMAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009